Oil exploration in Contai area of West Bengal

*28. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Regional Business Centre (CRBC) of ONGC had forwarded any report regarding oil exploration in Contai area of West Bengal;

(b) if so, whether any location was sought to be released in this area based on seismic surveys;

(c) whether the location has since been released; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and exact time schedule by which a decision would be taken for release of location in Contai area?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proposal for exploratory drilling location in the Contai area was put up in the exploration meeting of the Central Regional Business Centre (CRBC) of Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) in August, 2000.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The exploration meeting recommended additional studies. These integrated studies are being carried out in the CRBC and based on them, CRBC is expected to convey its report to the Exploration Committee towards the 4th quarter of the present financial year. Release of any exploratory drilling locations will depend on the results of these additional studies.